

REMARKS

The Office action mailed April 13, 2007, has been received and its contents carefully noted. Claims 2-9 and 11-14 were objected to, claims 27, 29, 31 and 33-39 were allowed, and claims 1 and 10 were rejected. By this Response, claims 2-9 and 14 have been amended and claims 1 and 10 have been canceled. Support may be found in the specification and the claims as originally filed. Payment is included for 8 independent claim(s) in excess of 4 for which payment originally was made. No statutory new matter has been added. Therefore, reconsideration and entry of the claims as amended are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Saito (US 6,736,636). Specifically, the Examiner deemed that Saito discloses the claimed thermal processing unit.

As amended herein, claims 1 and 10 have been canceled. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) should properly be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner allowed claims 27, 29, 30 and 33-39. The Examiner also held that claims 2-9 and 11-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of their base claim (and any intervening claims).

As amended herein, claims 2-9 and 14 have been written in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that claims 2-9 and 14, and the claims which depend thereon should be allowed.

Request for Interview

Applicants respectfully request either a telephonic or an in-person interview should there be any remaining issues.

CONCLUSION

The stated grounds of rejection has been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the presently outstanding rejection and that it be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to **Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Attorney Docket No. 033082M248.**

Respectfully submitted,
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